

plant is spruce, but I have never found it in any of the many spruce plantations I have visited.

Epinotia fraternana Haw. This appeared to be fairly common at Braishfield in early May, but did not appear in Havant Thicket until toward the end of the month when it was found quite commonly. Dr. Harper had found the moths commonly in 1976 in Haugh Wood, netting them after tapping the branches. He had also found the larval spinings whose description agreed with the empty spinings I had found in abundance in Havant Thicket. It seems that the larva spins two needles together in parallel and another two crosswise, in the form of a frame for a game of noughts and crosses, then mining the needles. Ford gives the foodplant as spruce, and Meyrick says *Pinus picea* (he calls spruce *Pinus abies*).

Pammene ochsenheimeriana L. & Z. In mid-April I found full-fed larvae in aborted buds of *Abies grandis* in Havant Thicket. They pupated within the buds, and emerged at the end of April and in May. Meyrick merely says "on *Pinus*", and Ford says "on *Pinus sylvestris*".

Ditula angustiorana Haw. Larval spinings were common in Havant Thicket, the larva mining the needles.

Blastobasis lignea Wals. Larvae were abundant in April feeding in spun dead needles, debris from other trees that had fallen on to the flat branches of the fir, and also in bird droppings.

Brachmia gerronnella Zell. One was bred from a twig gall. Presumably it was an inquiline feeding on the dead wood.

Abies grandis is a pabulum for several species previously considered to be uncommon, and it would be well worthwhile for further studies to be made in plantations of this tree throughout the country.

References

- Ford, L. T., 1949. *A Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera*. London.
Meyrick, E., 1928. *A Revised Handbook of British Lepidoptera*. London.
Randall, R. E., 1973. *Trees in Britain—Conifers and Allies*. Jarrold, Norwich.

EUROIS OCCULTA (L.) AND LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI (BOISDUVAL) IN HERTFORDSHIRE. — On the night of 16th-17th July, 1977, I took a worn male specimen of *Eurois occulta* (L.) in the m.v. trap in my garden. There were few other occupants of the trap that night and their identity did not suggest any particular migratory occasion. The specimen appeared similar to the mid grey form associated with Scottish specimens.

A second moth of interest which I found in the trap on the night of 14th-15th October was a male *Lithophane leautieri* (Boisduval). Though not the first record for Hertfordshire, it seems a new arrival on the north-eastern side of the county. — D. E. WILSON, Joyce House, Green Tye, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.